



## Rodney Joe Bates

June 5, 1953 - October 9, 2025

Rodney Joe Bates, 72, of Bessemer, Alabama, passed away at his home, surrounded by family, on October 9th, 2025.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Bonnie Bates; brothers, John Wayne Bates, Jimmy Bates, and Tommy Bates; and his sister, Billie Ruth Jones.

He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Rita Bates; daughters Christy Bates Killingsworth (Andy), and Dawn Bowen (Stephen); grandchildren Hunter Bates, Chase Byars, and Hope Jones (Ben); and great-grandchildren Colten Bates, Jolene Bates, Andrew Jones, and Jackson Byars; his brother, Mike Bates (Becky); numerous extended family and friends; and his two dogs, Bear and Copper.

Rodney was a retired Jefferson County Sheriff's deputy, where he proudly served for 32 years. Rodney lived his life with a strong Christian faith and love for Jesus, which guided his values. He had a deep devotion to his family and a unique way of making every person feel special. He always filled the room with laughter through his remarkable sense of humor. He found joy in spending time with his family, listening to music, playing the drums, and watching Alabama football.

While he went by many different names, his favorite was “Poppa”. He had a special love for his grandchildren and devoted great amounts of time and love into each of them. He will be remembered for his laugh, humor, kindness, and most of all the endless love he poured into his family.

Rodney’s spirit will live on in the countless lives he touched. We take comfort in knowing that he is now with his Savior, Jesus Christ, and is no longer suffering.

A visitation for friends and family will be held at McCalla Memorial Funeral Home on October 13th, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., with a service to follow at 2:00 p.m.

# Previous Events

## **A Time of Remembrance for Friends and Family**

OCT 13. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

McCalla Memorial Funeral Home  
4780 Letson Farms Parkway  
Mc Calla, AL 35111  
(205) 477-4888  
info@mccallamemorialfuneralhome.com

## **A Celebration of Life**

OCT 13. 2:00 PM (CT)

McCalla Memorial Funeral Home  
4780 Letson Farms Parkway  
Mc Calla, AL 35111  
(205) 477-4888  
info@mccallamemorialfuneralhome.com

# Tribute Wall

AB

“ So sorry for y'all's loss. Praying for all of y'all



Amanda Paulk Byrd - October 18, 2025 at 09:50 AM

SB

“ Stephen Bowen lit a candle in memory of Rodney Joe Bates



Stephen Bowen - October 14, 2025 at 01:49 PM

KL

“ Kenneth Lee lit a candle in memory of Rodney Joe Bates



Kenneth Lee - October 13, 2025 at 01:25 PM

SB

Thank you Kenny Lee. Love you Bruh.

Stephen Bowen - October 14, 2025 at 01:47 PM

LD

“ Our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time. Prayers for peace and comfort. May the Lord bless you - your Kingdom of Hope family.

Lori Davidson - October 13, 2025 at 08:51 AM

SB

“ Rodney was a great father in law. More than just that, he was a great man period. He always made me laugh and I will miss our late night discussion's and card games.

Stephen Bowen - October 12, 2025 at 10:43 PM

HJ

“ My papa was the best grandfather and great grandfather ever. He loved my son Andrew so much! He will forever be in our hearts! 🥹



Hope Jones - October 12, 2025 at 07:30 PM

CC

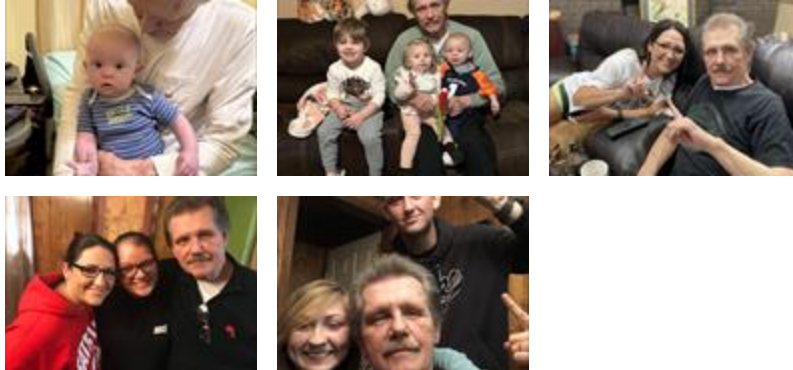
“ Rita , and family, I am so very sorry for your loss. Please know my prayers and thoughts are with you. The loss of a loved one is never easy, but to know he is in a better place with OUR LORD AND SAVIOR IS SUCH A BLESSING! May God be with each and everyone of you. It will not be easy at first, but it does seem to get easier as the days pass. Always know he is andxwill always be with you. He suffers no more, and his home now is with God! Engulf your memories and allow them to fullfill you for thexrest of your life! Love and prayers to you all.

Charlene Crook

Charlene Crook - October 12, 2025 at 12:32 PM

DB

“ He was the best father and grandfather anyone could ask for, and I'll miss him every day until I see him again. 💔



Dawn Bowen - October 11, 2025 at 12:38 PM

IF

“ I'll Franklin lit a candle in memory of Rodney Joe Bates



I'll Franklin - October 10, 2025 at 08:02 PM